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cancel

critical features 88e of the area 22e to be measured. As seen schematically in Figure 15, the electronic measuring and layout device is used by first placing the template 20e with a center point on the area 22e to be measured. The electronic angle and distance measuring device 15e is then used to create the template 20e by measuring the angles and the distances from the center point to the critical features 88e of the area 22e. The angles and distances to the critical features 88e are then recording on the template 20e. A sheet 24e of material to be cut is then obtained and the template 20e is placed on the sheet 24e of material. The angle and distance device 20e is then provided in order to identify the critical features 88e from the area 22e on the sheet 22e of material based on the feature location information. Finally, the sheet 24e of material is cut according to the critical features 88e.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1.

Please amend claims 2, 7, 9-17, 25 and 26 as follows:

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2. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the angle and distance device includes a tape measure that incorporates the tape.
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7. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the stationary member is a board.
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9. (Amended) A measuring and layout device comprising:  
a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked on; and  
an angle and distance device rotatably coupled to the stationary member, the angle and distance device including a longitudinally and laterally rigid extendable tape that can be extended from a central point and an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary member to form an accurate template as the angle and distance device is rotated and the tape is extended and retracted to critical features of an area;  
wherein the template includes markings written directly onto the stationary member.

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10. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the template includes markings written onto a paper placed on the stationary member.

11. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 9, wherein:  
the stationary member has a circular configuration.

12. (Amended) A measuring and layout device comprising:  
a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked on; and  
an angle and distance device rotatably coupled to the stationary member, the angle and  
distance device including a longitudinally and laterally rigid extendable tape that can be  
extended from a central point and an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary  
member to form an accurate template as the angle and distance device is rotated and the tape is  
extended and retracted to critical features of an area;  
wherein the stationary member has a substantially semi-circular configuration.

13. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the angle and distance device includes a tape measure extender for mechanically  
extending the tape, thereby allowing a single person to create the template while staying in a  
single central location.

14. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the tape includes an end with a holder attached thereto; and  
the holder is configured to secure a writing utensil.

15. (Amended) The measuring and layout device of claim 12, wherein:  
the angle and distance device has a digital readout for accurately communicating a  
distance that the tape is extended from the angle and distance device.

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16. (Amended) A measuring and layout device comprising:  
a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked on; and  
an angle and distance device rotatably coupled to the stationary member, the angle and distance device including a longitudinally and laterally rigid extendable tape that can be extended from a central point and an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary member to form an accurate template as the angle and distance device is rotated and the tape is extended and retracted to critical features of an area;  
wherein the tape has a pivotal pointer at a distal end.

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17. (Amended) A method of measuring and laying out a template of a room comprising:  
providing a stationary member;  
providing a tape measure;  
extending the tape measure to a critical feature of an area in a room to be measured;  
and  
recording direction and distance information on the stationary member from the tape measure relating to the critical feature.

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25. (Amended) A method of measuring and laying out an area comprising:  
providing a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked on;  
rotatably coupling an angle and distance device to the stationary member, the angle and distance device including a longitudinally and laterally rigid extendable tape that can be extended from a central point and an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary member; and  
forming an accurate template by reliably marking on the stationary member as the angle and distance device is rotated and the tape is extended and retracted to critical features of the area.

26. (Amended) A measuring and layout device comprising:  
a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked on;

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an angle and distance device rotatably coupled to the stationary member, the angle and distance device including a longitudinally and laterally rigid extendable tape that can be extended from a central point and an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary member to form an accurate template as the angle and distance device is rotated and the tape is extended and retracted to critical features of an area; and

a motor and motor controller operably connected to the longitudinally and laterally rigid tape for extending, retracting and axially rotating the tape;

the motor controller being programmed to record data and create an electronic version of the template.

Please add the following new claims:

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30. (New) A measuring and layout device comprising:

a stationary member having a flat surface adapted to be marked upon;  
a carrier rotatably connected to the stationary member; and  
an extendable tape connected to the carrier, the tape being configured to be extended from the carrier, the tape including an edge that facilitates reliably marking on the stationary member to form an accurate template as the carrier is rotated and the tape is extended and retracted to critical features of an area;

wherein the carrier includes a tape extender for mechanically extending the tape, thereby allowing a single person to create the template while staying in a single central location.

31. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:

the carrier includes a front leg adjacent a top of the stationary member; and  
the front leg has guides for the tape and a straight edge for making the template.

32. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:

the stationary member is a board.

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33. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 32, wherein:  
the board includes non-slip feet.
34. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the template includes markings written directly onto the stationary member.
35. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the template includes markings written onto a paper placed on the stationary member.
36. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the stationary member has a circular configuration.
37. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the stationary member has a substantially semi-circular configuration.
38. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the tape includes an end with a holder attached thereto; and  
the holder is configured to secure a writing utensil.
39. (New) The measuring and layout device of claim 30, wherein:  
the tape has a pivotal pointer at a distal end.

40. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, further including:  
rotatably coupling a carrier to the stationary member; and  
connecting the tape measure to the carrier.

41. (New) The method of measuring and layout out of claim 40, wherein:  
the carrier includes a front leg adjacent a top of the stationary member;  
the front leg has guides for the tape measure and a straight edge; and

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the step of recording information on the stationary member including making a mark along the straight edge of the front leg.

42. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 40, wherein:  
the tape measure is located within the carrier.
43. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the stationary member is a board.
44. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 43, wherein:  
the board includes non-slip feet.
45. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the step of recording information on the stationary member includes writing  
information directly onto the stationary member.
46. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the step of recording information on the stationary member includes writing  
information onto a paper placed on the stationary member.
47. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the stationary member has a circular configuration.
48. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the stationary member has a substantially semi-circular configuration.
49. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, further including:  
providing a tape measure extender for mechanically extending the tape measure; and  
extending the tape measure with the tape measure extender.

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50. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, further including:  
attaching a holder to an end of the tape measure;  
wherein the holder is configured to secure a writing utensil to the end of the tape  
measure.

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51. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the tape measure has a digital readout for accurately communicating a distance that the  
tape measure is extended from the stationary member.

52. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, further including:  
connecting a pivotal pointer to a distal end of the tape measure.

53. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 17, wherein:  
the step of recording information on the stationary member includes writing a distance  
of the tape measure from the stationary member to the critical feature on the stationary  
member and writing angle information on the stationary member signifying an angle of the  
tape measure relative to the stationary member.

54. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the angle and distance device includes a tape measure that incorporates the tape.

55. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 54, further including:  
providing the angle and distance device with a carrier that is adapted to hold the tape  
measure.

56. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 55, further including:  
pivotal coupling the carrier to the stationary member.

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57. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 56, wherein:  
the carrier includes a front leg adjacent a top of the stationary member;  
the front leg has guides for the tape measure and a straight edge; and  
the step of forming a template includes making a mark along the straight edge of the

front leg

58. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the stationary member is a board.
59. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the board includes non-slip feet.
60. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the step of forming the accurate template includes writing directly onto the stationary member.
61. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the step of forming the accurate template includes writing onto a paper placed on the stationary member.
62. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the stationary member has a circular configuration.
63. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the stationary member has a substantially semi-circular configuration.
64. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, further including:  
providing the angle and distance device with a tape extender for mechanically



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extending the tape; and

extending the tape with the tape extender.

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65. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, further including:  
attaching a holder to an end of the tape measure;  
wherein the holder is configured to secure a writing utensil to the end of the tape  
measure.

66. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, further including:  
providing the angle and distance device with a digital readout for accurately  
communicating a distance that the tape is extended from the angle and distance device.

67. (New) The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, further including:  
connecting a pivotal pointer to a distal end of the tape.

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68. (New)- The method of measuring and laying out of claim 25, wherein:  
the step of forming an accurate template includes writing a distance of the tape from the  
stationary member to the critical feature on the stationary member and writing angle  
information on the stationary member signifying an angle of the tape relative to the stationary  
member.

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